

System of Care Programs

Laura Larkin

Division of Mental Health and

Disability Services

March 15, 2021

SAMHSA System of Care (SOC) Definition

 SOC refers to a coordinated network of community-based services and supports organized to meet the challenges of children and youth and their families.



SOC Definition (continued)

- The following are important components of system of care services:
- family driven;
- individualized, strengths based, and evidence informed;
- youth guided;
- culturally and linguistically competent;



SOC Definition (continued)

- provided in the least restrictive environment;
- community based;
- accessible; and
- collaborative and coordinated across an interagency network.



Target Population

- SOC programs are targeted toward children and youth with a serious emotional disturbance (SED) at risk of out of home placement or treatment or other negative outcomes
- Current SOC programs are limited to non-Medicaid eligible children and youth
- SOC programs are designed to serve children and youth in their homes, schools, and communities
- SOC programs are expected to be flexible and use principles of Wraparound to help children and families succeed



SOC Programs in Iowa

- Community Circle of Care-University of Iowa Child Health Specialty Clinics
 - Serves 10 counties in NE Iowa, began in 2006.

- Four Oaks System of Care
 - Serves Linn and Cerro Gordo Counties, began in 2012



SOC Programs in Iowa

- Central Iowa System of Care-Orchard Place
 - Serves Polk and Warren Counties, began in 2008

- Tanager Place System of Care
 - Serves Linn and surrounding counties, began in 2012



History of System of Care (SOC) in Iowa

- The first SOC program was the Community Circle of Care (CCC) and began in 2006
- CCC was funded by a federal SAMHSA grant and continued under state funding after the federal grant ended in 2012.
- The remaining three programs were added at the direction of the Legislature.



History of System of Care (SOC) in Iowa

- System of Care programs began before IHH and were created to address gaps of care coordination and community based services for children with an SED
- Prior to IHH, there was no care coordination for children with an SED other than CMH waiver
- SOC programs originally served both Medicaid and non-Medicaid programs using state program funds to help pay for care coordination, in-home and community-based services not otherwise covered by insurance
- After IHH began, the SOC programs transitioned to becoming IHH for Medicaid eligible children while continuing to serve non-Medicaid eligible children through SOC funding



SOC Services

- Services provided by SOC programs:
- Care coordination
- Family peer support
- Family team meeting facilitation
- Community and stakeholder education
- Access to mental health services and supports



SOC Services (continued)

 Funding for flexible wraparound services that strengthen the child's ability to function in the home, school, and community. Wraparound services may include in-home services such as behavioral health intervention services (BHIS), respite or community supports not available through the child's insurance coverage or that are unaffordable for the family.

